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Letter dated 3 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you regarding the brutal terrorist attack that took place in the city of Ahvaz, the capital of the Khouzestan Province of the Islamic Republic of Iran, committed on 22 September 2018, during an annual parade on the first day of "the sacred defence week" commemorating the martyrs and sacrifices of the eight-year aggression by Saddam against Iran.

As a result of this terrorist act, 24 Iranian citizens, including a 4-year-old child, were killed and 60 others wounded.

Almost immediately, the al-Ahvaziya group spokesman shamelessly and openly claimed responsibility for this heinous crime in an interview with a television channel broadcasting from the United Kingdom. The group, whose members are recruited, trained, armed and funded by a regional country, is also responsible for a series of terrorist attacks in the past, resulting in the killing of 20 civilians and the injury of more than 250 others. It is worth noting that, later that day, Daesh also accepted responsibility for the crime, and subsequent information confirms its leading role in planning and guiding this terrorist attack.

In my previous letters dated 4 May 2017 (S/2017/393) and 8 June 2017 (S/2017/489), I warned against the irresponsible, provocative and ill-fated policies of the regime of Saudi Arabia in promoting and financing extremist groups and its short-sighted and self-defeating adventurism in the region, which is in clear violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. There is substantiated evidence that the al-Ahvaziya terrorist group is supported and funded by Saudi Arabia, and therefore it should be held accountable for this heinous terrorist attack. Moreover, this terrorist act should be considered as an example of the Saudi plan to "work so that the battle is ... inside Iran", as openly stated by the Saudi Defence Minister on 2 May 2017.

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the press statement issued on 24 September 2018 by the Security Council, through which the Council members "condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" in Ahvaz and "underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all other relevant authorities in this regard".

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To that end, all States Members of the United Nations are invited, in fulfilling their commitments to suppress terrorism, to extradite those who aided or abetted these terrorist crimes as well as any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of such terrorist crimes on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, and to fully cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the investigation of the matter so as to ensure that the persons responsible are brought to justice. Moreover, those countries who harbour members of this terrorist group are called upon to deny members of this terrorist group safe haven.

The international community, in the interest of world peace as well as the peace and security of such a volatile region as the Middle East, should not tolerate the further spread of takfirist ideology, the incitement to terrorism and violent extremism and the sponsorship of terrorism by a certain country in the Persian Gulf.

Seizing this opportunity, I would like to further bring to your attention that the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, acting in legitimate self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, took limited and measured military action on 1 October 2018 in Syria, targeting terrorist elements that are also linked to the terrorist act in Ahvaz. The attack was precise, leaving no collateral damage to civilians and civilian assets in the area.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative